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SUBJ: MOZAMBIQUE: COUNTRY'S FIRST TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
SHELTER INAUGURATED

REF: 05 State 206165

¶1. (U) On May 2, 2006, the Mozambican civil society organization FECIV (Civic Education Forum) inaugurated the country's first permanent shelter for trafficking victims in Moamba, approximately 50 kilometers from Maputo, with a small ceremony attended by district government officials, NGO workers, and local community members. The Moamba shelter, funded by various donors including the U.S. Government and the German NGO Terre des Hommes, has the capacity to house up to 80 women and children, and will serve as a transit point for rehabilitation of repatriated victims of trafficking. The Moamba district government has donated an additional 20 hectares of land, which will be used to grow food for the shelter.

¶2. (U) FECIV officials plan to bring the first group of trafficking victims to the shelter by next week, although the basic utilities are still lacking. Water will be brought by tractor from the border town of Ressano Garcia, approximately 70 kilometers away, and plans to purchase a power generator are in the making; resource limitations are clearly driving implementation timelines. As construction on the kitchen and cafeteria area is incomplete, meals will be cooked outside on a campfire. USG funds from a FY05 Democracy and Human Rights project with FECIV will be used towards providing general victims assistance services and psychological counseling. \$12,000 in FY05 ESF will be used for additional support (Reftel).

¶3. (U) During the inauguration ceremony FECIV announced it will start screening for victims of trafficking amongst the 800-1000 Mozambican illegal immigrants repatriated by South African immigration authorities, on average, every fortnight. At present, the group of repatriated Mozambicans is dropped off in Ressano Garcia, and is the charge of a local reception committee comprised by district government officials, the Catholic organization Massangulo, and border police. The primary responsibility of the committee is to temporarily house and feed the returnees while making arrangements for their departure to their home villages. However, in reality, the committee does not have the resources to provide basic services, and many returnees end up crossing the border illegally back in to South Africa. Massangulo, run by Catholic nuns, is the primary entity responsible for determining who among the group of repatriated Mozambicans might be trafficking victims. However, this group, too, is understaffed and lacks the personnel to conduct an all-encompassing screening process.

Post will continue to follow the progress of the Moamba shelter and report as appropriate.